

Fare Well Mr. Sanchez

Andy Sanchez says that his vacating the Southwest District's Parks and Recreation Superintendent position is "giving someone else an opportunity to have fun." After twenty-three (23) years with the City, he is retiring and his last day is January 2nd.

Andy's experiences with the City have allowed him to work all over the city. His first five years were spent as a certified welder. He later became Shops Operation Supervisor with the Parks and Recreation Department. Five years ago he became the Southwest Park District's Superintendent.



Being in charge of civic events, Senior Olympics, park grounds and facilities maintenance has given Andy the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Tucson. "I was able to clean up, take down fences, take down a barrage of signs and replace them with one multi-layered sign (in numerous places)." He has been involved with the Rodeo Grounds improvements which have led to increased usage by the public. "I am neat and straightforward," he says with pride over his accomplishments.

When asked about his involvement with City Team South, he said that the city teams are a great idea. "We are better at mending department separation. We get to know cohorts in other departments and districts. It's a good thing." He explains that the benefits are multiple but mainly community issues get directed to the responsible party more quickly and are more efficiently handled. "Customer service is better" he says.

So what is Andy doing after he leaves City employment? "I want to be a yard-junk artist and have fun." Building on his skills as a certified structural welder, he is registered to take a metal sculpturing class at Pima Community College in January.

When he finishes his class in May, he will begin some of the art projects for which friends and family have already placed orders. "It will be a labor of love," he said with a big smile on his face. There is no doubt that Andy will have fun in his retirement and that he will be missed by the City employees that he leaves behind. Reenie Ochoa, Southwest District's Parks and Recreation Administrator says, "Andy will be tremendously missed at Parks and Recreation. Not only has he been a wealth of knowledge and experience, but his many diverse talents in the area of Parks Maintenance and Operations make replacing him very difficult. Andy has been one of the most dedicated and professional individuals I have had the opportunity to work with."